REMARKS

Claims 38-42, 44-50, and 52-57 were pending when the Office Action was mailed. Applicants herein amend claims 38, 46, 48, 53, and 55 and do not cancel or add any claims. Accordingly, claims 38-42, 44-50, and 52-57 remain pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 38, 39, 45, and 55-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Roth and Carter and rejects claims 40-42, 44, 46-50, and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Roth, Carter, and McAllister. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Nevertheless, applicants herein amend the claims to clarify the subject matter for which they seek protection and to correct minor typographical errors.

Applicants' technology assists in speech recognition by providing two separate lists: one list containing keywords to be identified using a key sequence provided by a user and the other list containing words having audio representation that can be compared to speech provided by a user. Each keyword in the first list is associated with a word in the second list, each keyword associated with a word having a different spelling. Applicants' technology assists in the recognition of speech by allowing a user to enter a sequence of keys, identifying all of the keywords corresponding to that sequence, and then generating a constrained recognition grammar consisting of all words associated with the identified keywords. For example, a user searching for information about a corporation over the telephone may be requested to provide the corporation's stock ticker symbol. In response to this request, the user may press 6, 7, 3, 8, which corresponds to MPET, MSFT, and OSFT. (Specification, p. 18). Applicants' technology may then prompt the user to speak the name of the corporation for which the user is requesting information. In the process of recognizing the user's speech, applicants' technology can constrain the recognition grammar to the names of the three corporations corresponding to the identified stock ticker symbols—Magellan Petroleum, Microsoft, and Objectsoft—thereby reducing the likelihood of error.

In contrast, Roth is directed to a technique for recognizing speech provided over the telephone using a typed numeric string corresponding to letters that directly match a spoken word. For example, a user may say the word "the" into a telephone handset and then press 8, 4, 3, corresponding to the letters 'T,' 'H,' and 'E.' (Roth, Fig. 2, 2:36-38). Roth processes the spoken word and converts the typed numeric string into "a list of all the possible combinations of characters it could represent." (Roth, Abstract). Roth attempts to identify the spoken word by comparing features of the spoken word to the combinations of characters corresponding to the numeric string. Carter describes a technique for identifying a listing in a directory over the telephone using a sequence of numbers that correspond to the exact spelling of at least a portion of the listing to be identified. In both Roth and Carter, the sequence of keys entered by a user must correspond directly to at least a portion of the word to be identified.

Applicants' technology uses a set of keywords in the process of recognizing speech, each keyword corresponding to a word to be recognized and having a different spelling from the associated word. For example, claim 38 now recites "providing a list of words...each word being associated with a keyword in the provided list of keywords, and each word having a different spelling from its associated keyword." Similarly, claims 48 and 55 now recites "providing a list of keywords of characters, each keyword associated with a word in the provided list of words and each keyword having a different spelling from its associated word." Neither Roth nor Carter disclose these features. In both Roth and Carter, the sequence of numbers a user inputs produces an exact match to at least a portion of the word that the user is ultimately searching for. For example, in Roth a user says a word and enters the sequence of numbers that correspond to the spelling of that word exactly. Similarly, in Carter, if a user is searching for directory information about a person with the last name Smith, the user must enter at least a portion of a sequence of numbers corresponding to an exact spelling of at least a portion of Smith. Neither Roth nor Carter teach or suggest recognizing a spoken word by allowing a user create a constrained recognition grammar by entering a sequence of keys corresponding to a keyword having a different spelling from the word to be
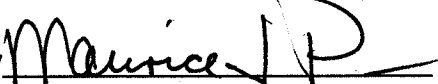
recognized via speech recognition. Accordingly, claims 38, 48, and 55 are patentable over Roth and Carter, as are their dependent claims 39-42, 44-47, 49, 50, 52-54, 56, and 57.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268600US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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